



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESO-O

4 February 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS/DIRECTORS, USACE COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Command Involvement in Reporting of USACE Serious Accidents

1. This Command, during the last fiscal year experienced eight contractor employee fatalities and one government employee accidental death. All of these mishaps occurred during the accomplishment of typical construction and operations activities. These untimely deaths were in addition to several other serious personal injuries, high-dollar property losses, and other near misses. All of these incidents raise the cost of doing business for the Corps as well as for our contractors.
2. To stem this negative trend, I asked the Headquarters Safety Office to develop a plan for reporting serious accidents that will assure the involvement and accountability of our senior leadership in furthering the Corps safety efforts.
3. Effective immediately the following requirements are in effect:
 - a. Employee Fatality: The commander of the organization where an accidental fatality occurs will personally brief the USACE Commander in a face-to-face meeting on the causes of the accident, any lessons learned, and actions taken to prevent future occurrences. This briefing will take place within 30 days after completion of the Board of Investigation.
 - b. Contractor Fatality: The commander of the organization where the accidental fatality occurs will personally brief the next higher level of command in a face-to-face meeting on the accident causes, lessons learned, and actions taken to prevent future occurrences. In some instances briefings with the USACE Commander or Deputy Commander may be required. This briefing will take place within 30 days after completion of the Board of Investigation.
 - c. Other Class A and B Accidents (as defined in AR 385-40): Accidents resulting in high-dollar property losses, permanent or permanent-partial disability injuries to government employees, mishaps that could cause embarrassment to USACE, serious near misses, etc., will be reported in face-to-face briefings with the next higher level of command, USACE Deputy Commander, or USACE Commander on a selected basis. The determination for these briefings will be made by the HQUSACE Safety Office Manager in consultation with the USACE Deputy Commander.

CESO-O

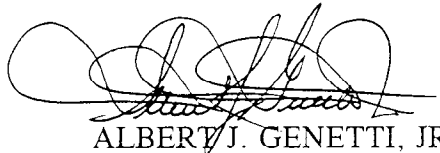
4 February 1998

SUBJECT: Command Involvement in Reporting of USACE Serious Accidents

d. In addition to the requirements above, the commander of the organization experiencing any of these serious accidents will participate in the next scheduled USACE Safety and Occupational Health video teleconference, providing the audience with a description of the accident, any causal factors, lessons learned, and actions taken to prevent recurrence.

4. I expect all subordinate commands to implement similar, internal, upward reporting requirements for serious accidents. We must assure that as leaders, we are leading the way for safety and are holding our subordinates accountable. Our employees have every right to expect that their work site is free from hazards and that we are taking every prudent step to provide them such a place of employment. Essayons!

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert J. Genetti, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

ALBERT J. GENETTI, JR.
Major General, U.S. Army
Deputy Commander